

Kaiserslautern, GE - Those involved with the U.S. Army Garrison Kaiserslautern Better Opportunities for Single Servicemembers (BOSS) now have proof that they are the best in Europe.

The program garnered the "Best Installation" and "Best Event" in the large category May 5 at the 2006 Installation Management Activity-Europe BOSS Conference in Schwetzingen, Germany.

"No bones about it, we truly have the best BOSS program in Europe," said Sgt. Joel Abelson, Kaiserslautern's BOSS president.

The Best Installation award was for Kaiserslautern's BOSS combined events throughout the year. However, Abelson said it was Kaiserslautern volunteers who stood out in the competition. He cited the recent garrison Special Olympics Spring Games where more than 660 hours of volunteer work were donated by Kaiserslautern BOSS members.

"The recognition received at the conference was well deserved by all the volunteers who helped make Kaiserslautern's BOSS program so successful," said Spec. Amber Starr, Kaiserslautern's BOSS secretary.

It was the Super Bowl Shin-dig held Feb. 5 that garnered the "Best Event" prize for Kaiserslautern. Abelson said the BOSS volunteers worked together to offer a safe but fun place for Soldiers to watch the Super Bowl.

The award ceremony concluded a five-day conference where representatives from garrisons throughout Europe learned how to best support single Soldiers through the BOSS program.

The Army founded BOSS in 1989, and over the years, it has grown to a three pillared organization helping single and unaccompanied Soldiers with recreation and leisure, community service and well-being issues. The name was changed locally around 1997 because the garrison wanted to open its doors to other military services, particularly the Air Force, because of the unique Kaiserslautern military community demographics. The program here can't address well-being issues for its Airmen members, but it can still offer them opportunities for recreation and leisure, and community service, said Command Sgt. Maj. Pamela Carmouche, the senior enlisted advisor of the Kaiserslautern program.

Next on the list for Kaiserslautern is the Department of the Army BOSS Conference to be held early next year in Washington, D.C.